

## VICTORY FOR CONSCRIPTION SEEN AS BRITISH CABINET ENDS A DECISIVE SESSION

### Immediate Application of Compulsion Expected to Be Made.

## BILL TO BE HURRIED BEFORE PARLIAMENT

### Departure of Ministers From London Taken to Mean Final Decision.

## BREACH IN MINISTRY MAY BE ADJUSTED

### Many Resignations Threatened, but Papers Look for a Settlement.

**Special Cable Despatch To THE SUN.**  
LONDON, Dec. 29 (Wednesday).—The advocates of compulsory military service for all unmarried "blackers" apparently have won the day. The departure from London last evening of many of the leading Ministers after the Cabinet meeting is taken as indicating that a final decision has been reached. The question at issue was whether or not conscription should be extended to

According to the *Daily Mail* the result of yesterday's Cabinet meeting was a triumph for the principle of single men first.

**Resignations Threatened.**

"It is understood that the decision of the Cabinet was not unanimous. A few resignations were threatened, but the Ministers in question are likely to take a little time to consider their position and it is quite possible that they may decide to accept the decision of a majority of the Cabinet. In that case there will be no resignations at all.

"By deciding firmly to carry out his promise to the married men Mr. Asquith

anti-compulsion. Ministers to accept the view that the piece must be strictly observed. It is unlikely that either Reginald McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, or Arthur Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, will leave the Government. Those who resign, if any do, will probably not be Ministers of first class importance."

The newspaper adds that a meeting of the Labor party will be called at the earliest opportunity, "when, no doubt,

"It will be remembered," continues the *Daily Mail*, "that Mr. Henderson became a member of the Government as the leader of the Laborites and doubtless he feels that his presence there in the future must depend on the attitude his party officially decides to adopt."

"The Cabinet met at 11:30 A. M. and separated at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

**To Reconstruct Cabinet.**  
The *Daily Sketch* said yesterday that a reconstruction of the Cabinet was contemplated with Premier Asquith

Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law as a nucleus, "although," the paper added, "the danger of a serious split necessitating the formation of a new Cabinet under another Premier is not wholly removed."

The same newspaper added that it was understood that practically every member of the present Cabinet had placed his provisional resignation in the hands of the Premier, to be used should the situation demand.

According to the *Times* the Cabinet members have decided that it will be bound by Premier Asquith's pledge and generally approved the principle of compensation as a consequence of the result of Lord Derby's voting campaign. The *Times*, after describing yesterday's cabinet meeting as "critical, but not a crisis," said the following: "The policy on which the majority of the Ministers are agreed—

"First, the Premier's pledge to maintain the principle of a free Government, not Mr. Asquith alone.

"Second, this pledge should be re-demanded immediately.

"Third, the principle of compensation should be accepted.

"Fourth, the Premier should make a statement in the House of Commons, sending of Parliament on January 17.

**Strong Opposition Shown.**

This course is strongly opposed by a considerable number of the members. McKenna and Walter Humeham are understood to be definitely hostile to the

of compulsion in the present state of recruiting. But their view is chiefly dictated by the belief that the Government plan will prejudice trade and finance. Their resignation and that of other Ministers is possible.

"The most difficult corner in the Cabinet, however, is that of the

The Cabinet has decided to reject all suggestions for extending another invitation to the laggards to enlist.

The *Times* says editorially:

"Although the Government is known to have reached a definite decision it still is too soon to regard the crisis as settled."

"Nation Won't Oppose."

"We are convinced that there is no fear that the coming measures will impair the unity and determination of the nation and the dominating desire of the